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Mr. RAYMOND J. FATZ
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR
ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY, AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

HOST SERVICE ADDRESS

BEFORE THE

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Thank you, General Ferrell for that kind introduction.

On behalf of the Secretary of the Army, it is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the 28th Environmental and Energy Symposium of the National Defense Industrial Association, here in the beautiful city of Charleston, South Carolina.

Representing the Army as Host Service for this event, I hope the conference brings new knowledge, and new partnerships, that will better enable you to support our mission while enhancing environmental quality in everything we do.

I really enjoy participating in events like this. It gives me the chance to get back together with the technical folks, and our colleagues in industry to hear first-hand about your successes and, of course, the challenges you face. It is you in the field who make the everyday decisions that make the difference. Please know that I appreciate what you do and I am glad to see such a great turnout at this Annual Symposium.

Over the next three days, each of the 36 breakout sessions will address a different aspect of the conference theme –

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“Integrating the Dual Goals of Environment and Energy for Sustainable Federal Operations: A Forum for Preserving the Future.” This is a broad theme, and it reflects my sense that this is an exciting time to be a contributor to the Defense Environmental Program, which supports the Department’s important national security mission.

We have accomplished much over the past several years, and currently we are faced with issues and opportunities that can take us still further ahead. America’s military looks to you, members of this audience and your extended peer group of professionals, to provide integrity and innovation for our programs to continue succeeding into the future.

The conference theme and breakout sessions assembled here do an excellent job of capturing the range of issues and opportunities faced as we embark on the path toward Transformation and Sustainability.

In order for us to sustain the natural resources that in turn support our mission, we must focus even more on integration, transformation, and collaboration. I believe these three

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imperatives form a common thread running through all the issues that will be addressed here over the next several days.

For example, at least three of this week's sessions will focus on issues related to terrorism and homeland security, and their implications for military environmental programs.

I think it is fair to say that for all of us who work in the Nation's defense, the time since September 11th has been marked by a renewed sense of purpose and resolve.

We are asking ourselves, once again, how what we do is relevant to the defense of Americans and American interests, both at home and abroad. Day-to-day we are working hard to clean up from past actions, comply with current requirements, prevent pollution for the future, and conserve the natural and cultural resources entrusted to us by the American people. But at every turn we must also ensure that every soldier we send into harm's way has received the finest possible training we can provide. While pressing for greater and greater achievements in environmental stewardship, we must never allow this solemn duty to escape from the forefront of our thoughts and aspirations.

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The specter of terrorism is still fresh in the hearts and minds of Americans, but it is not so new to our men and women in uniform. The emergence of non-state aggressors and asymmetric threats has in part driven us toward an understanding that we must transform ourselves – our forces, our support functions, and our installations.

Many of the sessions you'll attend this week will address aspects of how environmental excellence can support and enhance our progress toward a transformed and more sustainable military.

For the Army, transforming our forces means developing weapons and mobility systems that are lighter, faster, more lethal, and more agile. Many promising new environmental technologies that you'll hear about this week can help us meet this goal.

For example, photovoltaic power systems for field generators have a lower heat signature and a lower noise signature, giving our weapons systems greater stealth on the battlefield. The same systems are also more agile, because they require no re-supply personnel for diesel in the field, reducing the logistical tail.

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Furthermore, greater fuel-efficient mobility systems are increasing time-on-range, increasing area coverage and reach, and reducing fuel supply requirements. A “lighter” fuel supply chain will enhance the speed and agility of our force projection capabilities, and a less-polluting Army means we operate more efficiently and responsibly on our training ranges.

A reduced environmental footprint in theater operations also means a reduced logistical footprint, which in turn reduces our potential for liabilities from host nations after conflicts are concluded.

We must provide continued environmental and energy oriented R&D support to advance us toward the Objective Force at an accelerated pace. Initiatives in support of moving toward a more lethal force must ensure our munitions impact targets more, and the environment less. Our weapons and mobility systems can, and must be, more fuel-efficient and less polluting.

But transformation doesn't stop with the Brigade in the field. A transformation in force structure also requires a transformation in logistics, support systems and services. This requires a

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Transformation of Installation Management, and this change is biggest one I have seen in the Army for decades.

The Army's Transformation of Installation Management will be operational on 1 October 2002. It will establish a corporate structure focused on installation management to support base operations and enable mission commanders to focus on their warfighting mission. The transformation implementation will geographically align installation management in seven regions worldwide. Each of these regions will have a regional director to oversee the services provided on that particular region's installations supporting day-to-day operations and well-being. Regionalization of these services will establish equitable standards of service at all Army installations worldwide, streamline the flow of resources, and improve the delivery of services to commanders, soldiers and their families.

The Army is excited about the opportunities that exist through this centralized, regional approach for managing our installations. By managing our accounts under one corporate approach, we can achieve broad programmatic efficiencies and cost effectiveness at the regional level. From an environmental program perspective, this change will help make the Army more

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sustainable because it will encourage us to better integrate our environmental requirements across functional components, across base operations, and across the fence line by strengthening long-term relationships with Federal and state regulators and by developing more regionally focused relationships with commercial, academic, and nonprofit sectors to collaborate more than ever before.

Of course, the environmental community realized several years ago that a regional approach established on the Federal regions was a good idea. Through the DOD Regional Environmental Centers, we began to establish stronger relationships with the regulators. Regional Environmental Coordinators across the country are doing much to build local and regional partnerships. For example, the Army's Southeast Regional Environmental Office, located in Atlanta, is coordinating the activities of all Services in a South East Natural Resources Leadership Group, which is an alliance of senior federal executives from eleven agencies¹ that respond to the Region's emerging challenges collaboratively. Leveraging their combined resources, the group works to achieve clear and measurable improvements in natural resources.

¹ DoD, COE, EPA, FHA, FWS, USFS, USGS, NMFS, NPS, NRCS, TVA

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The need for reaching out beyond the fence line is greater than ever before. Once isolated and rural, today's Army installations are finding themselves increasingly surrounded by the advantages and disadvantages of urbanization. When we built our installations in the desert, the mountains, and on the prairie, soldiers came and brought their families, and commercial enterprises followed to provide all the necessities of modern life. Small towns once entirely dependent on our existence grew to large cities that now press against our borders and have developed economies diverse enough to depend less and less on the military for economic success.

In the past our local communities referred to our artillery fire and helicopter rotors as "the sounds of freedom," but today they hear it simply as a persistent and aggravating noise. Army installations depend on support from local groups outside our gates, making regional cooperative efforts increasingly crucial.

Therefore we must enhance cooperation with local neighbors in the regions surrounding every installation, sharing information in support of regional planning efforts. Collaborating and cooperation must include state and local governments, tribes,

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local businesses, and the public. We need to strengthen our ability to make these kinds of investments in the health and vitality of the regions and communities where our installations are located.

We are building a strong network of relationships, or an “internet of relationships” where the “dot-mil’s” work increasingly and more effectively with the “dot-govs”, the “dot-com’s”, and the “dot.org’s” in the regions where our installations are located.

A great example of cooperation is the initiative currently underway by the Army to enable its installations to work with regional partners to build 25-year plans for installation sustainability.

This initiative will address not only the hardware and training skills of our units, but also the well-being of our soldiers and their families; the needs of the communities that support our installations; and the quality of Army infrastructure and its natural environment at each installation – all as an integrated whole.

For example, installation leaders at Fort Bragg and Fort Lewis have led the way by inviting representatives from all their

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major tenant organizations as well as key leaders from tribal, state, regional, and local governments and interest groups to work together toward a 25-year plan. The plan will help them ensure the sustained existence of their respective installations and missions. Taking the Army toward sustainability at the grass-roots level, the professionals at these installations recognize that sustainability will determine their utility and viability into the future. You will hear more about this initiative in Thursday morning's breakout session on Installation Sustainability.

To encourage programmatic thinking in direct support of both readiness and sustainability, many transforming installations are exploring new opportunities in Environmental Management Systems such as ISO 14000. Many of the sessions you'll attend this week will also address this emerging opportunity. The Directorate of Public Works at Fort Lewis is among those leading the way in Environmental Management Systems: first by becoming ISO 14001 certified, and second by receiving a White House Closing the Circle award for their EMS initiatives.

A major theme of this conference is integrating the dual goals of energy and environment. As we take a closer look at our recent deployments, such as in Central Africa, Southeast

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Asia, the Gulf, and Somalia, we can identify energy, water, and other natural resources as being one root cause in these conflicts. These resources continue to be a critical part of every nation's life-line. So critical in fact, that the imbalance of energy and environment continues to be a major cause for conflict, and thus sometimes requires our soldiers to be sent into harms way. The sharing of information we do here today, the exploration of new technological advances, and improved conservation techniques will inevitably go beyond these walls and our own installations. This is because environment and energy sustainability is important to the entire global community.

Energy is critical to Army missions and the well-being of soldiers, civilians, and families at installations. The Army trains, fights and wins on energy and it directly effects everything we do. We use it to move our vehicles, power our communications systems, fly our aircraft, and heat the homes of our soldiers and their families. The Army has long recognized the need to be fuel efficient in everything we do. Fuel efficiency makes good business sense by reducing costs and making our fighting force more effective. It makes good tactical sense as we seek to reduce the logistics tail; improves the versatility and agility of our force; and makes our weapon systems more lethal and survivable

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on the battlefield. And, it makes good practical sense because it protects the natural resources that we all depend on for our quality of life.

Energy and environmental issues meet primarily over concerns about cleaner air and cleaner water. We must continue to enhance and refine our energy strategy in concert with plans for environmental, installation, and mission sustainability.

Many environmental technologies and process improvements can have a direct benefit to military readiness in the field, but as advocates of environmental support to readiness we must set an example of environmental excellence in everything we do.

I would like to thank NDIA for selecting an environmentally an energy conscience hotel. In this hotel, Embassy Suites undertook a variety of changes to their internal management operations to improve customer satisfaction while conserving fiscal and environmental resources. Every day in this hotel they monitor water and energy consumption per occupant as a means of identifying leaks or other usage drains. They have motion sensors in their storage rooms that turn themselves off 15

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minutes after the rooms become vacant. All the lights in their parking lot run on photovoltaic cells and are on only from dusk to dawn. Heating and air conditioning units in the guestrooms shut off automatically until a guest checks in at the desk. And large conventions like ours can request a voluntary towel and linen reuse program to conserve water, energy, and detergents. As Embassy Suites moves to implement these process improvements throughout its more than 38,000 guest rooms world-wide, they will realize significant cost savings and improved customer satisfaction.

We are examining our own installation operations, our lodging facilities and other systems to capitalize on lessons learned from the private sector, like our Embassy Suite hosts. For example, in the Army alone there are more than 22,000 guest rooms in BOQs and VOQs worldwide, and many more in the other Services.

Simply having a conference such as this one helps to ensure that we collaborate as broadly as possible, and that we demonstrate to our outside partners the full depth and breadth of our commitment to resource stewardship and environmental

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excellence. I am looking forward to hearing more about the great ideas that will be discussed here this week.

As I speak to you this morning we are less than 30 days away from Earth Day 2002. In this year's Earth Day message from the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Shinseki states:

“Sound environmental stewardship enables the Army to train as we fight. Conservation of natural resources on installations ensures we protect the privilege to use our training and testing lands. Effective management of hazardous materials and the protection of air, land, and water resources preclude constraints on training and installation management.”

The Chief of Staff is right on target.

We must always remember that the Army mission is to fight and win our nation's wars and to this end we must provide our Soldiers with tough, realistic, battle-focused training to ensure their readiness to accomplish this mission. We have been, and will continue to be, good stewards of the land because it directly

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supports our ability to provide realistic training scenarios to our Soldiers, and because the American people demand we do both.

Also, our soldiers demand we do both. Take into consideration that many of our soldiers were born after the passing of the National Environmental Policy Act in 1969. These young men and women were raised in an era of environmental awareness, and they take great pride in their Army's environmental record.

Our Soldiers realize as much as anybody else that they do not just train on our installations; they live on the installations. They take advantage of outdoor recreational activities on our installations. They drink water supplied by local aquifers. They breathe the air and enjoy the natural beauty of our installations. Environmental compliance preserves the ability of our soldiers and their families to enjoy these basic attributes that determine the quality of life on our installations. Our civilian employees, the contractors who support us, and our neighbors who live in the adjacent communities also benefit from the natural beauty of our installations and our commitment to sustain them.

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Certainly sustaining readiness and installations is a big task, and we need your creativity and expertise to help us accomplish our goals. Our success depends on our ability to collaborate in forums like this one today and when we return home. It is not just the “dot-mils”, but the “dot.govs”, the “dot-coms”, and the “dot-orgs” that help us be successful.

In closing, I want to commend the men and women of our Armed Forces, and our civilian environmental and energy professionals – both Civil Service and contractors alike – who have worked so hard to build and maintain one of the most innovative programs in the federal family. The success of these programs is essential to our national security, our international leadership, and the health of our environment.

Thank You.

Introduce Mr. Dubois.

Now, it is my pleasure to introduce Mr. Raymond Dubois, the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment.